

CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1995

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the February 1995 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials; average weekly earnings, retail turnover; hotels, motels and guest house accommodation; and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- The trend unemployment rate in the ACT rose from 6.9 per cent in May/June 1994, to a peak of 7.3 per cent over the period September to November 1994. Since then the trend has been declining and in February 1995 stood at 6.9 per cent. Similarly, the trend participation rate fell in February 1995 to 72.2 per cent from a peak of 72.9 per cent in September/October 1994. The unemployment rate for the ACT was below the national rate of 8.9 per cent, while ACT's participation rate was above the national rate of 63.4 per cent in February 1995.
- Long-term unemployment in the ACT rose from 2,456 in December 1994 to 2,636 in January 1995; representing an increase of 7.3 per cent. However, when compared to January 1994, the number of long-term unemployed in the ACT fell by 18.2 per cent. The proportion of long-term unemployed in the ACT in January 1995 was 20.5 per cent (up 0.4% from December) which compares to a national proportion of 32.6 per cent (down 1.9%).
- There were no working days lost due to industrial disputes in November 1994 for the ACT. Nationally, there were 62 disputes involving a loss of 106,400 working days in the same period, representing an increase of 117 per cent from the previous month. This was the highest number of working days lost in a month for Australia since March 1993. For the ACT, the number of days lost per thousand employees for the year ending November 1994 was 9, compared to the national figure of 81 days.
- The trend series for the value of monthly housing commitments for the ACT has continued to decline and is now 20 per cent lower than its peak of \$110.2 million in March 1994. The national trend series has also showed a consistent fall from its peak in April 1994 and is now 18 per cent lower.
- Trend average weekly earnings for the ACT decreased by 0.8 per cent in the November quarter 1994, which was mainly caused by a decrease in earnings by males of 1.0 per cent. Nationally, there was a 0.9 per cent increase in trend average weekly earnings. Trend ordinary time earnings for full-time adults saw a drop of 0.2 per cent in the ACT in the November quarter 1994, which was the highest fall recorded for all States/Territories.
- Trend estimates of retail turnover in the ACT decreased by 0.3 per cent in January 1995. The main contributor to this decrease was the hospitality and services sector which fell by 1.5 per cent. In the twelve months from January 1995, the retail turnover for the ACT showed a 0.4 per cent increase.
- The trend in room nights occupied in hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities increased marginally by 0.1 per cent in the September quarter 1994 to reach 210,200 room nights occupied for the ACT. This is an increase of 7.8 per cent from September quarter 1993. Takings from accommodation at current prices rose by 3.9 per cent in trend terms, with takings from accommodation at average 1989-90 prices rising slightly less at 1.8 per cent from the previous quarter. Corresponding national trend estimates showed a 1.4 per cent rise at current prices and 2.0 per cent rise at average 1989-90 prices for the September quarter 1994, with the number of rooms nights occupied increasing by 0.2 per cent to reach 8,610,400 nights.
- The trend estimate for the number of new motor vehicles registered in the ACT was 1,060 vehicles in January 1995; an increase of 4.8 per cent from the previous month. This was the largest increase of all States and Territories, with the overall increase being 0.9 per cent.

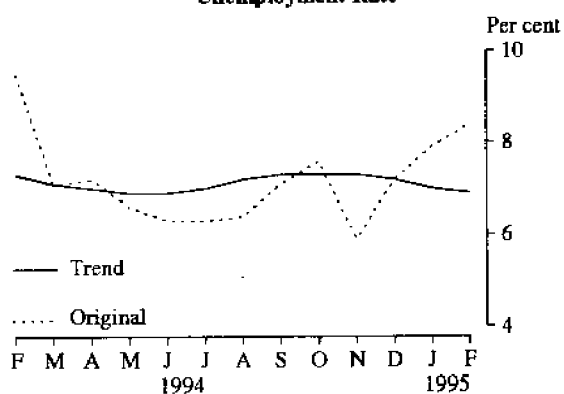
Dalma Jacobs
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

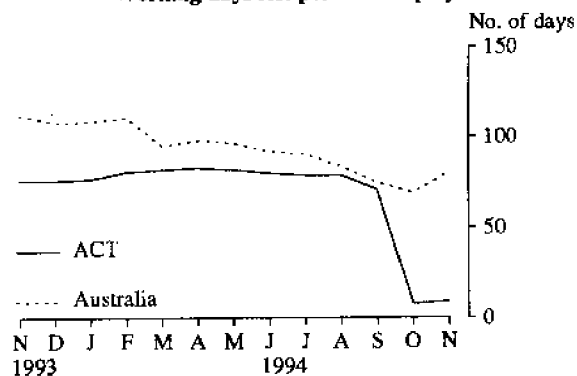
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

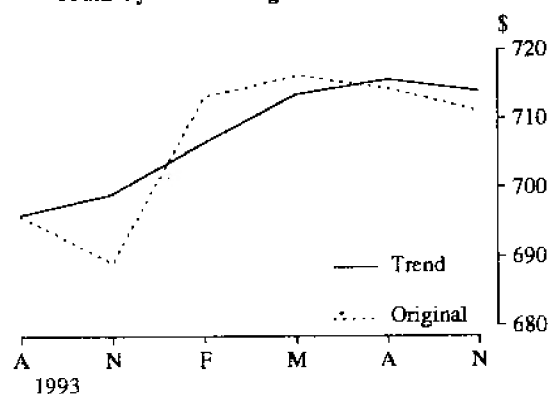
LABOUR FORCE
Unemployment Rate



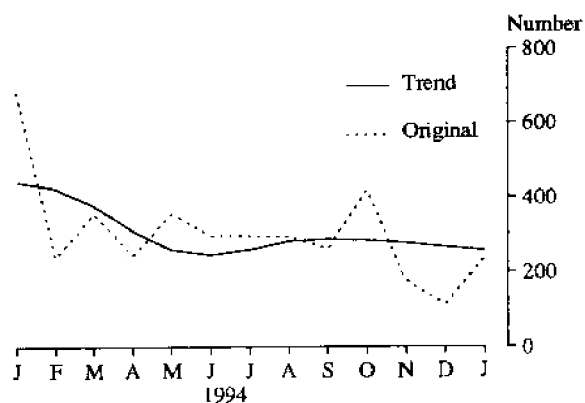
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
Working days lost per '000 employees



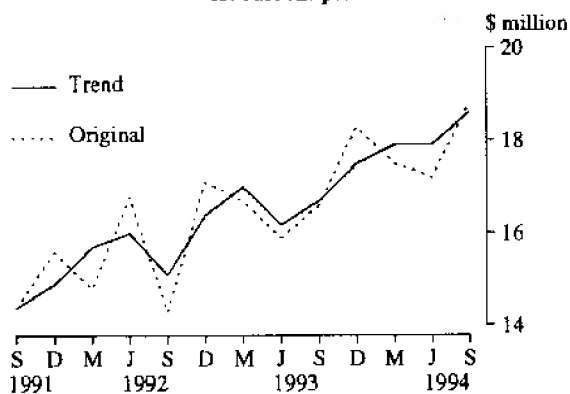
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES
Ordinary time earnings for full-time adults



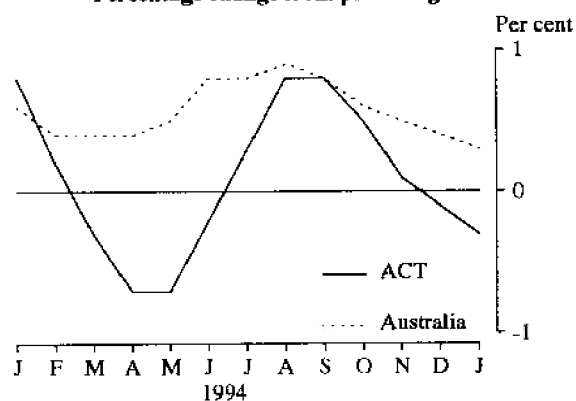
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION
At current prices



RETAIL TURNOVER - TREND
Percentage change from preceding month



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, MARCH
QUARTER 1995/DECEMBER QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
Mar. qtr 1994–June qtr 1994	1.6	1.9
June qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1994	3.8	2.3
Dec. qtr 1994–Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Medium-term		
Mar. qtr 1994–Mar. qtr 1995	3.8	3.9
June qtr 1994–June qtr 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1995	2.3	4.1
Dec. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1995

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, June qtr 94	'000	300.9	0.2	0.7	17 843.3	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	876	6.8	5.8	35 358	1.2	3.2
Net migration	no.	- 135	- 350.0	- 65.8	5 576	- 75.2	- 189.4
Total increase	no.	741	- 15.2	71.1	40 934	- 28.8	46.1
LABOUR FORCE, February 95p							
Original series							
Employed	'000	154.1	3.1	0.8	8 090.1	1.7	4.4
Unemployed	'000	14.1	9.3	- 12.4	886.2	3.8	- 12.0
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.4	0.5	- 1.1	9.9	0.2	- 1.6
Participation rate(a)	%	73.3	2.5	- 1.2	63.9	1.2	0.8
Long-term unemployed (Jan. 95)	no.	2 636	7.3	- 18.2	278 416	—	- 18.0
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Jan. 95)(a)	%	20.5	0.4	- 1.2	32.6	- 1.9	- 2.0
Trend series							
Employed	'000	154.1	- 0.1	0.7	8 121.5	0.3	3.9
Unemployed	'000	11.4	- 2.6	- 5.0	794.3	- 0.3	- 12.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.9	- 0.1	- 0.4	8.9	- 0.1	- 1.5
Participation rate(a)	%	72.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	63.4	0.1	0.5
JOB VACANCIES, November qtr 94	'000	1.4	- 41.7	27.3	66.0	- 3.9	72.8
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, November 94							
Working days lost	'000	—	- 100.0	—	106.4	117.1	165.3
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Nov. 94)	no.	9	12.5	- 88.2	81	17.4	- 27.7
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, December 94							
Secured commitments to individuals for Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	7.5	- 13.6	- 29.2	568.6	- 13.2	- 12.4
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	19.3	6.0	9.7	182.5	- 10.9	- 8.0
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	45.4	- 8.7	- 31.2	2 565.6	- 9.6	- 17.6
Total housing commitments	\$m	80.5	- 6.1	- 22.7	3 316.7	- 10.3	- 16.2
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	92.4	9.6	- 16.8	3 873.3	18.4	- 6.1
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	88.2	- 0.7	- 15.4	3 526.6	- 0.3	- 12.4
BUILDING APPROVALS, January 95							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	240	112.4	- 65.0	11 338	- 12.5	- 13.4
Value of new residential	\$m	24.9	99.2	- 53.3	1 018.5	- 17.5	- 6.8
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.8	31.0	- 19.1	145.9	- 3.9	0.5
Value of non-residential	\$m	26.2	336.7	- 73.2	631.5	12.8	11.6
Value of total building	\$m	54.9	156.5	- 64.7	1 795.9	- 7.7	- 0.5
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	258	- 4.1	- 41.9	14 053	- 4.2	- 10.5
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94							
New houses	no.	360	- 3.0	- 37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	- 33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	- 68.3	- 22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	- 42.7	- 21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Sept. qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)		132.3	- 1.1	- 0.8	112.6	1.5	4.8
Price index of house building materials, Dec. 94 (b)		152.8	0.3	1.6	157.0	0.4	3.4

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1995 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, December qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		113.6	1.2	2.0	110.9	0.5	1.3
Housing		102.8	3.1	3.6	97.5	2.7	4.2
Transportation		118.9	-0.6	1.2	116.8	-0.2	2.9
All groups		113.8	1.1	2.2	112.8	0.8	2.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, November qtr 94							
Original series							
Males	\$	699.20	-1.1	1.3	642.90	1.3	3.9
Females	\$	491.20	-1.9	2.7	425.00	0.9	4.0
Total persons	\$	590.90	-1.7	1.1	541.50	0.8	3.8
Trend series							
Males	\$	700.70	-1.0	1.3	642.50	1.1	3.7
Females	\$	499.60	0.1	4.0	427.30	0.6	4.0
Total persons	\$	595.60	-0.8	1.6	543.40	0.9	4.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, January 95							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	66.9	-14.8	8.1	3 620.4	-15.4	8.6
Department stores	\$m	18.6	-59.3	-2.1	752.5	-58.6	0.9
Hospitality and services	\$m	23.1	-27.4	-11.5	1 688.4	-12.5	14.0
All other retailing	\$m	48.7	-39.8	-4.5	2 900.7	-33.1	6.2
Total	\$m	157.3	-33.6	-0.4	8 962.0	-27.5	8.1
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	69.6	0.9	6.6	3 668.2	0.5	8.2
Department stores	\$m	23.1	-0.4	-1.3	928.5	-0.2	2.8
Hospitality and services	\$m	26.3	-1.5	-8.4	1 653.9	0.5	11.5
All other retailing	\$m	56.4	-1.1	-1.6	3 099.6	0.1	4.6
Total	\$m	175.4	-0.3	0.4	9 350.2	0.3	7.0
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, September qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	213.9	7.4	7.1	8 924.8	8.9	6.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.8	9.3	13.3	759.9	12.7	13.0
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	17.1	8.9	13.2	647.6	11.5	10.9
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	211.7	2.3	6.7	8 630.7	0.9	6.9
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.0	9.8	13.1	738.5	3.4	13.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	17.2	8.9	12.4	622.8	1.8	11.1
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	210.2	0.1	7.8	8 610.4	0.2	6.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.6	3.9	11.4	732.7	1.4	11.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.7	1.8	9.2	622.7	2.0	10.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, January 95							
Motor vehicles	no.	803	-22.4	-4.2	42 947	-18.7	17.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 101	-1.1	-10.9	54 806	4.2	13.2
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 060	4.8	2.7	53 946	0.9	13.2
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, September qtr 94							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 122	1.3	5.8	102 726	2.9	6.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 315	-2.4	-0.1	111 038	2.5	7.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 035	-1.8	6.6	101 834	1.3	8.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 343	3.2	2.8	69 191	4.1	7.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	339	5.9	31.9	18 709	2.3	18.8
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 034	-0.1	1.5	102 948	1.4	5.7
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 363	1.1	5.2	112 075	2.2	7.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 997	-0.3	2.8	101 426	1.6	7.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	0.1	1.7	68 718	1.5	6.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	326	7.9	16.8	18 758	5.2	19.4

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	June qtr 94	6 051.4	4 476.1	3 196.9	1 469.8	1 701.9	472.4	171.1	300.9	17 843.3
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Feb. 95p	2 719.2	2 009.9	1 481.9	647.4	818.1	195.9	85.3	154.1	8 121.5
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Feb. 95p	8.7	9.6	8.6	9.8	7.7	11.6	7.2	6.9	8.9
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	34 688	26 511	17 005	7 389	11 795	2 192	1 080	2 034	102 948
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	38 221	29 038	18 262	8 312	12 167	2 359	1 154	2 363	112 075
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Jan. 95	3 880	1 787	2 805	774	1 535	218	99	240	11 338
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Jan. 95	4 381	2 565	3 633	899	1 957	236	117	258	14 053
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Jan. 95	209.3	152.7	133.4	23.4	54.8	13.8	17.9	26.2	631.5
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Jan. 95	652.9	351.5	397.9	93.4	182.5	33.9	29.0	54.9	1 795.9
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	993.2	540.4	777.4	156.1	330.2	35.3	63.1	53.9	2 949.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Nov. qtr 94	652.80	625.90	587.70	600.60	631.20	599.90	646.70	714.00	629.00
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Jan. 95	3 278.2	2 156.5	1 734.7	709.3	961.4	227.3	107.4	175.4	9 350.2
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Sept. qtr 94	2 929.6	1 359.6	2 303.5	480.0	789.1	273.6	264.8	210.2	8 610.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Jan. 95	19 354	12 677	9 944	3 577	5 604	1 112	618	1 060	53 946
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		Dec. qtr 94	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
Housing		Dec. qtr 94	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
Transportation		Dec. qtr 94	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
All Groups		Dec. qtr 94	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sept. qtr 94	163.0	154.0	145.0	125.0	139.0	160.0	170.0	165.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	1 257.0	1 111.0	1 147.0	1 180.0	1 057.0	1 075.0	1 287.0	1 105.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	68.4	68.3	60.5	69.7	69.8	74.7	73.3	71.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	June qtr 94	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Feb. 95p	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.7	-0.1	0.3
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Feb. 95p	—	-0.2	—	-0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
STATE ACCOUNTS										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1	0.2	1.9	-0.1	1.4
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.1	2.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Jan. 95	-7.7	-29.2	-13.0	10.9	-17.3	-4.4	-13.9	112.4	-12.5
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Jan. 95	-3.7	-4.7	-4.9	-1.5	-2.2	-6.3	-11.4	-4.1	-4.2
Value of non-residential building approved	Jan. 95	-12.2	71.2	17.3	-35.4	30.5	-49.6	155.7	336.7	12.8
Value of all buildings approved	Jan. 95	-10.5	-16.7	-2.5	-7.2	-6.9	-29.7	45.0	156.5	-7.7
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 94	-20.1	-24.2	2.5	-21.8	-29.8	-50.2	9.5	28.0	-17.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov. qtr 94	1.4	1.0	0.4	-0.1	1.7	0.9	1.0	-0.2	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Jan. 95	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	-0.4	0.8	-0.3	0.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.2	0.2	-1.3	-1.3	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.1	0.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Jan. 95	0.7	1.5	-0.2	2.4	1.5	-1.9	3.5	4.8	0.9
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	Dec. qtr 94	1.1	0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	—	1.2	0.5
Housing	Dec. qtr 94	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2.3	3.1	2.7
Transportation	Dec. qtr 94	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.6	1.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2
All Groups	Dec. qtr 94	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	1.9	1.9	4.1	1.0	4.5	—	3.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	-1.8	0.7	-0.7	-0.8	12.1	3.9	1.2	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sept. qtr 94	-2.0	0.8	-0.1	1.4	0.8	-2.0	3.3	3.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sept. qtr 94	-6.8	3.7	-11.1	-1.2	-1.6	-1.5	—	-9.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	-8.1	—	4.1	-4.8	16.2	-9.1	4.9	15.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	-16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3	16.7	2.5	18.6	1.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. qtr 94	1.7	—	—	-0.6	-2.5	-1.0	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	-0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Sept. qtr 94	1.0	-1.3	-0.5	0.1	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

